

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
ACDA-12 /114 W

-----009226 062351Z /70

R 051449Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7955

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT BAGHDAD

USINT HAVANA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJ: ERITREA PROBLEM ASSUMES ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY DIMENSIONS

: ADDIS ABABA 1399 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY AND COMMENT: SCENARIO, ANTICIPATED IN REFTTEL, THAT ETHIO-  
PIAN GOVT MIGHT ATTEMPT TO REDEFINE ERITREAN PROBLEM AS  
ANOTHER ASSAULT ON ETHIOPIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY BY "REAC-  
TIONARY" FORCES, APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING AT STEADY PACE.

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APRIL 02 REMARKS BY HIGH-RANKING MILITARY COUNCIL (DIRG OR PMAC)  
IDEOLOGUE AND SUBSEQUENT APRIL 05 EDITORIAL, REFLECT EVOLVING  
ETHIOPIAN PROPAGANDA AND STRATEGY TOWARD ERITREA. IT SEEMS  
THAT DIRG IS NO LONGER DRAWING DISTINCTION BETWEEN VARIOUS  
ERITREAN MOVEMENTS AS IT HAS IN PAST, AND IS LUMPING "PRO-  
GRESSIVE" ERITREAN POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT (EPF) WITH  
"REACTIONARY" ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT (ELF) AS SEPARA-

TISTS. ETHIOPIANS ARE CAREFULLY BUILDING CASE TO PORTRAY THEMSELVES AS SEEKERS OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ERITREAN PROBLEM WHICH IS BEING REJECTED BY SECESSIONISTS, THUS LEAVING MILITARY OPTION AS ONLY MEANS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

1. AT APRIL 02 GRADUATION CEREMONY OF IDEOLOGY SCHOOL CADRES, SUB. LT. TAMRAT FERED, DIRG MEMBER-IN-CHARGE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, SPOKE EXTENSIVELY ON ERITREAN PROBLEM. HE SAID PROBLEM WAS CREATED BY COLONIALISTS AND WAS NOT PRODUCT OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. RECALLING REPEATED PEACE CALLS TO SECESSIONIST ELEMENTS, ATTEMPTS TO USE ELDERS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES AND RELIGIONS TO APPROACH THESE ELEMENTS TO FURTHER PEACE EFFORTS, AND INVITATIONS TO JOIN "REVOLUTIONARY CAMP", TAMRAT STATED SEPARATISTS HAD REFUSED THESE GESTURES OUTRIGHT. HE SAID THEY HAVE ALSO REJECTED ETHIOPIAN GOVT (PMGSE) MAY 1976 NINE-PINT PEACE POLICY AND SOLUTION TO NATIONALITIES QUESTION CONTAINED IN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION (NDR) PROGRAM. AS RESULT, TAMRAT CONCLUDED, THEY HAVE EMERGED IN THEIR TRUE COLORS AS REACTIONARIES, AND, HE CLAIMED, "HAVE NOW BEEN TOTALLY CUT OFF FROM PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF THE WORLD" WITH WHOM THEY HAD RELATIONS IN PAST. CONSEQUENTLY, TAMRAT INSISTED, ERITREAN SEPARATISTS HAVE FORGRED GREATER COHESION AND COLLABORATION WITH REACTIONARY REGIMES OF SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN, KUWAIT AND OTHER ARAB RULING CLASSES. THUS, SEPARATISTS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH NATION-CONFIDENTIAL

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ALITY QUESTION AND ARE MERELY REACTIONARY, NEATLY FITTING INTO TAMRAT'S FORMULATION THAT "STRUGGLE HENCEFORTH BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AND ERITREA SEPARATISTS (WILL BE) ONE OF ONLY CLASS."

3. APRIL 03 "ETHIOPIAN HERALD" EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT AFTER EMERGENCE OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION DEVISED "MASTER PLAN OF SUBVERSION, COUNTER-REVOLUTION AND INVASION." ONE ELEMENT OF PLAN WAS STEPPED-UP ARMS DELIVERIES TO ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS BY ARAB REACTIONARY REGIMES ASSISTED BY INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM. EDITORIAL ALLEGED THAT CAMPAIGN OF MISINFORMATION IS NOW IN FULL SWING TO DISTORT CHARACTER OF PROBLEM IN ERITREA AND TO ENSURE THAT HORN OF AFRICA REMAINS PERMENENT HOTBED OF TENSION AND CONFLICT. HOWEVER, EDITORIAL VOWED, STRUGGLE TO DEFEND ETHIOPIA'S UNITY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND GAINS OF REVOLTUION WILL BE INTENSIFIED. COLUMN CONCLUDED THAT VICTORIES IN OGADEN WOULD BE REPLAYED BY ETHIOPIA'S FORCES AGAINST "IMPERIALIST HIRELINGS AND CIA AGENTS IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY." MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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